

CLAIMS:

1. An artificial shingle for mounting on a roof, the artificial shingle comprising:

an elongated body constructed from an artificial material, the elongated body

5 including -

a top surface having an upper top overlap portion and a lower top exposure portion, and

10 a bottom surface having an upper bottom exposure portion and a lower bottom overlap portion, wherein the lower top exposure portion and the upper bottom exposure portion each present a relief pattern substantially resembling a natural material.

2. The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elongated body  
15 is approximately between 12inches and 24inches in length, and approximately between 4inches and 18inches in width.

3. The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the lower top exposure portion extends over approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the top  
20 surface, and the upper bottom exposure portion extends over approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the bottom surface.

4. The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elongated body further includes an upper end and a lower end, and the lower end is thicker than the  
25 upper end.

5. The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 4, wherein the lower end is approximately between 0.25inches and 0.75inches in thickness.

30 6. The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elongated body further includes a side and at least one spacer projection extending sidewardly therefrom.

7. The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, wherein the bottom surface includes -

a midline groove of reduced thickness extending the length of the elongated body to facilitate bending the artificial shingle; and  
5 a cuttable end tab located at a bottom end of the midline groove, wherein the cuttable end tab can be cut as needed to facilitate folding the artificial shingle but otherwise conceals the presence of the midline groove when the artificial shingle is mounted to the roof.

10 8. The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 1, further including a portion of reduced thickness located at the lower portion of the bottom surface.

9. The artificial shingle as set forth in claim 8, wherein the portion of reduced thickness is provided with corrugations to increase strength and stiffness.  
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10. Three instances of the artificial shingle of claim 1 joined to form a unit, wherein the three instances are joined by two cuttable connectors, and each of the three instances presents a different width.

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11. An artificial shingle for mounting on a roof, the artificial shingle comprising:

an elongated body approximately between 12inches and 24inches in length, approximately between 4inches and 18inches in width, and

5 constructed from an artificial material, the elongated body including -

a top surface having an upper top overlap portion and a lower top exposure portion, wherein the lower top exposure portion extends over at least approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the top surface, and

10 a bottom surface having an upper bottom exposure portion and a lower bottom overlap portion, wherein the upper bottom exposure portion extends over at least approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the bottom surface, and wherein the lower top exposure portion and  
15 the upper bottom exposure portion each present a relief pattern substantially resembling a natural material.

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12. An artificial shingle for mounting on a roof, the artificial shingle comprising:

an elongated body constructed from an artificial material, the elongated body including -

5 a top surface having an upper top overlap portion and a lower top exposure portion, wherein the lower top exposure portion extends over at least approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the top surface, and

10 a bottom surface having an upper bottom exposure portion and a lower bottom overlap portion, wherein the upper bottom exposure portion extends over at least approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the bottom surface, and wherein the lower top exposure portion and the upper bottom exposure portion each present a relief pattern substantially resembling a natural material, the  
15 bottom surface including -

a midline groove of reduced thickness extending the length of the elongated body to facilitate bending the artificial shingle, and  
20 a cuttable end tab located at a bottom end of the midline groove, wherein the cuttable end tab can be cut as needed to facilitate folding the artificial shingle but otherwise conceals the presence of the midline groove when the artificial shingle is  
25 mounted to the roof.

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13. An artificial shingle for mounting on a roof, the artificial shingle comprising:

an elongated body constructed from an artificial material, the elongated body including -

5 a top surface having an upper top overlap portion and a lower top exposure portion, wherein the lower top exposure portion extends over at least approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the top surface, and

10 a bottom surface having an upper bottom exposure portion and a lower bottom overlap portion, wherein the upper bottom exposure portion extends over at least approximately between 0.50% and 0.75% of the bottom surface, and wherein the lower top exposure portion and the upper bottom exposure portion each present a relief pattern substantially resembling a natural material, the  
15 bottom surface including -

a portion of reduced thickness located at the lower bottom overlap portion, and  
20 a plurality of corrugations within the portion of reduced thickness to increase stiffness and strength and thickness.

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